



ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Hong Kong Bureau

FROM:

EXTENSION

NO.

Chief, Operations Group

DATE

November 1988

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1.

C/Ops

27 Dec 88 [initials]

2.

3.

C/E&PS

12/28 [initials]

4.

~~DD/FBIS~~

5.

D/FBIS

R

6.

7.

~~PO/RA~~

8.

SA/CD

28 Dec 88 [initials]

9.

10.

C/AS

11/29 [initials]

11.

~~C/PERS~~

C/B&F/AS

~~11/29 [initials]~~

12.

DD/FBIS

3 Jan 89 [initials]

13.

PO/RA

1/9 [initials]

14.

C/AG

9/1 [initials]

15.

Exec. Reg.

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
HONG KONG BUREAU

FBIS--3617--88
1 December 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
FROM : [] Chief, Hong Kong Bureau
SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Hong Kong Bureau--November 1988

I. GENERAL

Director Bob Manners visited the Bureau on the 4th. During his stay, he met with principal officers at the Consulate to discuss issues of concern. Bureau employees joined the Director for a lunch of dim sum at the Union Center Restaurant. In the afternoon, the Director presented 10-year length-of-service pins to Chief Monitor [] Senior Monitor [] and Chief Technician []. In the evening, a cocktail party was held for the Director and the Bureau Chief hosted a dinner party at the Tandoor Indian restaurant attended by Consulate officers.

China coverage became a major concern on the 15th, when Okinawa Bureau lost coverage of XINHUA Domestic Service in Chinese. Hong Kong and Okinawa Bureaus quickly made ad hoc arrangements under which Hong Kong provided Okinawa with a list of the XINHUA materials appearing in RENMIN RIBAO the next day, and then Hong Kong FAX'ed the items selected by Okinawa. Okinawa also assumed the processing load of the CPC theoretical journal QIUSHI, thus freeing Hong Kong to process more materials from the Chinese-language press agencies it monitors.

When it became clear this was not a XINHUA technical outage but that XINHUA had in fact ceased all RTT transmissions, Hong Kong and Okinawa jointly worked out a more comprehensive ad hoc coverage redistribution. This plan, approved by MOD on the 29th and implemented that day, shifts to Hong Kong coverage responsibility for all XINHUA materials appearing in RENMIN RIBAO. The Bureau is also

responsible for more aggressively covering news stories appearing on its Chinese press agencies.

Okinawa, in turn, assumed coverage of Hong Kong LIAOWANG OVERSEAS EDITION, GUANGMING RIBAO, and cover-to-cover translation of QIUSHI. To compensate for Okinawa's longer lag time in receipt of these publications, Hong Kong is responsible for selecting out and FAX'ing priority materials to Okinawa.

At the request of Headquarters, the Bureau has placed an order for EPIC ROSET equipment for Okinawa in hopes of monitoring XINHUA. EPIC has promised to deliver the equipment to Okinawa in 30 days.

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This month the Bureau started a guest speaker program, with the guest discussing collection and analytic issues of concern with the monitors and editors. One of the objectives of the program is to give the monitors and editors a greater awareness of how their work is valued and used by the wide range of FRIS consumers. On the 10th, senior Headquarters Philippine analyst [] spoke; on the 18th, noted China scholar Doak Barnett commented on his just-concluded 5-month China tour; and on the 28th, [] a senior China analyst from Headquarters, spoke.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. On the 23d, Cable & Wireless concluded installation of the telephone line and Chinese-character printer over which the Bureau now receives Beijing XINHUA Hong Kong Service. XINHUA, for an unknown length of time, is continuing to send materials over the FAX, which has allowed the Bureau to compare the two services. Our initial observation is that the printer and FAX services are identical, but that the printer service is an hour to an hour and a half faster.

2. The Bureau reviewed a 2-week sample of Manila PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY provided by USIS Manila and Bangkok Bureau. It was determined that the Bureau's coverage of the Philippines would not benefit by having the Manila contractor subscribe to the service.

3. The television antennas at the Manila remote site have yet to be repaired because of continuing typhoons and the absence of the electrical contractors from Manila. This damage has resulted in weaker, but not a loss of, reception.

B. Lateral Services

1. As requested, the Bureau has deleted the BBC from the list of consumers receiving Beijing CEI Database materials.

2. The Bureau has lent its spare copy of the controversial Chinese television series "River Elegy" to Deputy Principal Officer [] and the Defense Liaison Office.

C. Technical

1. The Megamux system is now fully redundant following the installation of the new sets of boards recently received from CSL. The new version of the Autoframe cards has dramatically improved the system's performance. Electrical interference now should not cause a loss of synchronization in the whole system, as occurred previously. Now such electrical interference will only affect the operation of an individual channel for a second or two. However, no thunder storm or bad weather was encountered during the testing period. Bureau technicians will continue to monitor the system.

III. VISITS

1. Director Bob Manners TDY'ed at the Bureau 3-5 November.

2. Senior Headquarters Philippine analyst [] visited on the 10th.

3. Doak Barnet, a well-known China scholar, visited on the 18th.

4. [] who recently concluded his assignment at Okinawa, toured the Bureau and was briefed on operations on the 21st.

5. [] a senior Headquarters China analyst, visited on the 28th.

IV. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

On the 29th, the Bureau Chief and Chinese Supervisor [] attended a contract signing ceremony and demonstration of the XINHUA NEWS AGENCY News Broadcasting System at the Excelsior Hotel. The hosts were the general manager of NCN Limited and the managing director of Hong Kong Telephone.

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Editors [redacted] and
Chinese Supervisor [redacted] participated in a Consulate-sponsored CPR
and First Aid course the week of the 13th.

[redacted]
Chief, Hong Kong Bureau